

## Office of Mayor Fletcher Berger

Greetings from the Mayor,

As a nearly 40-year resident of Bedford Heights, I have been fortunate to witness and be a part of the ongoing growth of this wonderful community. Within the last 16 years five housing developments (*Bartlett Point, Marberry Commons, Holiday Hills, The Meadows of Bedford Heights and Daniel Drive*) have been erected within our borders. We continue to attract mainstream businesses in search of a great location, with direct access to multiple Interstates, financially sound income tax rates, and a progressive and stable local government.

Our housing vacancy rate hovers at about 9.8%. This is a significant achievement for any community our size. On the other hand, if you are looking to purchase a home in Bedford Heights, the opportunities that ultimately become available do not last for long. We have also been very vigilant at identifying and subsequently demolishing vacant homes that have become a blight in our city. The good news is that, on average, between 50 to 75 families relocate to Bedford Heights as new homeowners each year. Most of whom are in search of a financially sound, quiet, safe and centrally located community with stable housing values.

We are continually developing recreational programs for our residents. Over the course of the last 18 months or so, many of our senior citizens have signed up to become Silver Sneakers members at the Bedford Heights Community Center. These are wellness programs that encourage seniors through structured low impact aerobics activities. We also offer several sports-related leagues from which our youth can choose to participate in throughout the year.

I am extremely excited about our future prospects for this community. Having said that, my primary objective is maintaining a balanced budget. City council and I continue to work in harmony with a steadfast objective of placing the interests of the community above all else.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and welcome those of you who have chosen Bedford Heights as your new home. I look forward to seeing you at one of our many community events someday soon. Moreover, I remain grateful for the privilege to serve as Mayor in the community we call home.

Remember, my door is always open.